

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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R 161015Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 196

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 6515

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT JA

SUBJ: DIET TO RESUME SESSIONS

REF: TOKYO 6386

SUMMARY. INABA CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION CONTROVERSY NOW APPEARS ON ROAD TO RESOLUTION WITH REOPENING OF DIET PLENARY SESSIONS LIKELY TO COME MAY 20. FIRST ITEM OF BUSINESS ALMOST CERTAIN TO BE LDP PROPOSAL FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH DIET EXTENSION. AFTER THAT DIET WILL FOCUS ON DOMESTIC LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS. AS RESULT OF INABA IMBROGLIO, HOWEVER, PRIMIN MIKI'S "DIALOGUE" WITH OPPOSITION APPEARS TO HAVE SUFFERED SERIOUS SETBACK. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING FORMULATION OF SECOND CABINET POSITION PAPER ON JUSTICE MINISTER INABA'S CONTROVERSIAL STATEMENT THAT PRESENT CONSTITUTION HAS DEFECTS, TWO DAYS OF CONCILIATORY RESPONSES TO SHARP OPPOSITION QUESTIONING IN DIET COMMITTEES (MAY 15 AND 16) AND SCHEDULED FORMAL INABA RETRACTION, DIET NOW APPEARS FIRMLY ON ROAD TO RESUMPTION OF NORMAL SESSIONS
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AROUND MAY 20.

2. ONE OF THE REASONS OPPOSITION PARTIES ARE ACQUIESCING IN RESOLUTION OF INABA AFFAIR, HOWEVER, IS THEIR DESIRE TO QUESTION GOJ ON ROLE OF OKINAWA-BASED MARINES IN RECOVERY OF US MERCHANT SHIP MAYAGUEZ AND WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH GOJ (SEE SEPTTEL). OPPOSITION QUESTIONING ON THESE THEMES LIKELY TO TAKE UP DAY OR SO IN DIET PLENARY SESSIONS AFTER DIET DOES RESUME.

3. WITH DIET SCHEDULED TO END ITS REGULAR SESSION MAY 25, DIET MUST BE EXTENDED IF ANY ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION IS TO BE PASSED. THUS NEXT DIET AGENDA ITEM ALMOST CERTAIN TO BE LDP PROPOSAL TO EXTEND SESSION BY ONE MONTH OR SO. THIS PERIOD CHOSEN TO PERMIT ALL-OUT EFFORT TO OBTAIN PASSAGE OF ONE OR MORE OF PRIMIN MINKI'S THREE IMPORTANT DOMESTIC PROPOSALS: ANTI-MONOPOLY BILL, ELECTION FUNDS CONTROL BILL AND ELECTION REDISTRIBUTING BILL (TOKYO 6136).

4. COMMENT. MORE IMPORTANT THAN WEEK'S DIET DELIBERATIONS WHICH WERE LOST OVER INABA CONTROVERSY WAS SERIOUS HARM DONE TO MIKI'S POLICY OF DIALOGUE, RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION, WITH OPPOSITION PARTIES. SHARP PUBLIC WORDS, HARDENING OF POSITIONS AND FINALLY STRONG LDP POSTURE NECESSARY TO END INABA AFFAIR HAVE PUSHED OPPOSITION PARTIES (WITH EXCEPTION OF DSP) INTO THEIR MORE FAMILIAR ROLE OF ALMOST INDISCRIMINATE OPPOSITION. LIKELY RESULTS ARE MORE FREQUENT DIET BREAKDOWNS IN FUTURE, INABILITY TO PROCEED WITH MIKI EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE RATIONAL SECURITY DEBATE WHICH REQUIRES OPPOSITION ACQUIESCENCE IF NOT SUPPORT, AND END OF IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF MIKI POLITICAL SUPPORT: ALONG WITH MEDIA SYMPATHY AND PUBLIC OPINION POLL SUPPORT, MIKI'S COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH OPPOSITION PARTIES COMPENSATED SIGNIFICANTLY FOR MIKI'S LACK OF FIRM FACTIONAL SUPPORT WITHIN LDP.

5. EVENTS BEYOND MIKI'S CONTROL HAVE CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO HIS DECISION TO CONCENTRATE IN EXTENDED DIET SESSION ON DOMESTIC BILLS. AS WE REPORTED EARLIER (TOKYO 6136), HOWEVER, EXCEPT FOR ELECTION REDISTRIBUTING BILL, PROSPECTS ARE BLEAK DESPITE DIET EXTENSION.

HODGSON

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